The Samuel Robinson Award seeks to stimulate interest in the Westminster Shorter Catechism by challenging Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members who are juniors or seniors in college and attending a Presbyterian-related college or university to memorize and recite the catechism from memory. To further demonstrate understanding, student will have the option to write an essay on an assigned topic or complete a project to be considered for additional awards.

Applicants will memorize and recite the catechism from memory. Recitation applicants will be considered for an award of up to $2,000. Supplemental awards are available for students who write an essay on an assigned topic (up to $2,000) and/or design a modern catechism (up to $4,000). The largest possible award is up to $8,000 for Recitation, Essay, and Catechism project.

Application Process

Set up an online account and submit application

Online application powered by Kaleidoscope.
- Help available in the application.
- Opportunity to apply for more scholarships through Kaleidoscope.

Visit [www.pcusa.org/sam](http://www.pcusa.org/sam) and click apply now to create an account and start online application through Kaleidoscope portal. Student will need email address of Chaplain or Campus minister to complete application.
Recitation Process

Successfully recite the answers to the Westminster Shorter Catechism
Once the student applies, an email will be sent to the student’s chaplain or campus minister. This email will contain link to recitation form.

Student Meets with Chaplain
The student should schedule their recitation with their campus chaplain or campus ministry staff.

Memorize and Recite the Catechism
The student should recite the Catechism according to the guidelines set out below.

English Version - Westminster Shorter Catechism
Spanish Version - Westminster Shorter Catechism

Recitation Guidelines
Student should work with the chaplain or campus ministry staff to develop a plan for the recitation. Student may bring a copy of the catechism to recitation but may only use it to refresh memory and resume the catechism. The student will not read from the catechism. With the agreement of recitation partner, student may split the catechism up into sections and recite portions of the catechism before moving on to another section. The recitation can be delivered with a person reading the question to the student and the student responding from memory. The person certifying recitation is responsible for confirming that the student is enrolled and attends a Presbyterian related college or university, currently a Junior or Senior, and a member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation, and that the student has completed the recitation of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. If there is not a chaplain/campus ministry at the college, students should contact the Office of Financial Aid for Service.

Chaplain or Campus Minister completes recitation form
Once student completes recitation, chaplain or campus minister will submit form indicating satisfactory completion.

Complete Award Acceptance Form and choose optional additional awards
Student will be sent a link via email to log back into Kaleidoscope to accept award. At that time, student will be given the option to accept the base award immediately or submit additional work to apply for additional funding.

Requirements of Award

Award
Memorize and Recite Westminster Shorter Catechism
$2,000 award for up to 15 students

Supplemental Awards
Complete the recitation requirement and add one of the additional options below:

OPTION A: Essay
Additional award up to $2,000
Total Award up to $4,000

OPTION B: Project
Additional award up to $4,000
Total Award up to $6,000

OPTION C: Essay and Project
Additional Award up to $6,000
Total Award up to $8,000
Supplemental Awards: The Essay

Essay Guidelines
Essay should be at least 2,000 words long. Readers will be instructed to consider how creatively and comprehensively you address the question. They will also be instructed to take into consideration how the student uses the Westminster Shorter Catechism and scripture to support their argument. Lastly, readers will expect work be thoroughly proofread.

Essays should be double spaced and prepared on plain white paper. Essays may be faxed or sent by email, but we will not alter the document in any way. Essays may be written in the language of instruction; students attending Universidad Inter-Americana may submit their essay in Spanish.

Essay Topic
The Westminster Confession of Faith and the catechisms were written around the 1640s. The Confession and the catechism were also written in a narrow context of Western Europe which back then ignored and was ignorant of the vast realities of more than half of the population on earth outside Europe. This is a context that is drastically different from ours in the 21st century, where we are exposed to diverse lifestyles, religions, and racial ethnicities of the world, having access to those through various forms of media.

- With this understanding, what are some ways you see that the Westminster Confession and catechisms have continued to resonate with Christians living in the time-space of this vast complexity and diversity of the 21st century?
- Meanwhile, what are some ways that these could become anachronistic and parochial?
- What are the question/answer pairs in those that remain relevant and which do not make sense in our current culture or have been used to cause harm?
- How would you deconstruct the Westminster Confession and catechisms in your critical reflection of them in the context of ongoing racism, poverty, climate crisis, gender inequality, and wars of our days?
- What would you suggest for the language of faith reconstructed based upon your reflection in your critical reading of Confessions and catechisms?

Supplemental Awards: The Project

Project Guidelines
Reflect on the essay topic and design a project of your choice that expresses your ideas for a reconstructed language of faith in a way that could inspire others experience the confession and catechism in a new way.

- You can use any medium, structure, and/or technology you like.
- Art, photography, music, and video incorporated in your project must be described and credited.
- Copyrighted materials cannot be incorporated in your submission without permission of the copyright holder.

Supplemental Awards: The Essay

Essay Guidelines
Essay should be at least 2,000 words long. Readers will be instructed to consider how creatively and comprehensively you address the question. They will also be instructed to take into consideration how the student uses the Westminster Shorter Catechism and scripture to support their argument. Lastly, readers will expect work be thoroughly proofread.

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Evaluation and Selection of Awards
Samuel Robinson Award applications are read by two chaplains or campus ministers. Scores are averaged and students are ranked by score for awarding.

Notification of award is sent to the student with a W-9 (required) and a direct deposit form (optional). Samuel Robinson Award is not restricted for educational expenses; awards are paid directly to students. This award may be used at your discretion and the amount of the award will not be reported to the college/university you attend. The amount of the award is reported to the Internal Revenue Service, and you may want to consult a tax professional before you prepare your tax return for the year in which you were given the award.

Confidentiality of Evaluations
Do not share your user ID/password, or any application links sent to your email after you have started the application.

Information collected to support your application is maintained by Kaleidoscope for the office of Financial Aid for Service. The church membership/pastor endorsement form, work product of the college or university the student attends, and selection committee scores and notes are confidential and will not be released to the student and/or parent/guardian. Applications are viewed only by staff members with responsibility for the Presbyterian Mission Agency scholarship program, reading committee members, and financial aid staff at the student’s selected college or university.

Alternate Contacts
The online application system cannot be configured to support alternate contacts. Starting in the spring of 2021 we will only be able to respond to inquiries made by the student. Our online application is managed by a third-party service.

The Samuel Robinson Award is not renewable and may not be combined with any other grant or scholarship awarded by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through the Office of Financial Aid for Service

Click here for a list of the PC(USA) Related Schools

Mailing Address/Contact Information
Financial Aid for Service
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Louisville, KY 40202

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Cell Phone: 502-780-0088
Email: finaid@pcusa.org